

IDAHO 2021 Fall Chinook Salmon Seasons & Rules

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Clearwater River
North Fork Clearwater River
Middle Fork Clearwater River
South Fork Clearwater River
Lower Salmon River
Snake River



Salmon in this brochure refer to anadromous (ocean run) Chinook Salmon of the species *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*.



Illustration by Joe Tomelleri

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Citizens **A**gainst **P**oaching
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Seasons

The following waters are open to fishing for Chinook Salmon during the periods listed. Waters not specifically designated below shall remain CLOSED to fishing for Chinook Salmon unless opened by Commission action. Areas will close to Chinook Salmon fishing on the date listed below or may close earlier by emergency order of the Director.

The following areas open August 18, 2021:

Mainstem Clearwater River: From its mouth upstream to the confluence of the Middle Fork Clearwater and South Fork Clearwater Rivers.

Middle Fork Clearwater River: From its mouth upstream to Clear Creek.

South Fork Clearwater River: From its mouth upstream to the confluence of Red and American rivers.

Salmon River: From its mouth upstream to the Little Salmon River.

Snake River: From the Washington/Idaho border upstream to Hells Canyon Dam.

The following area opens September 1, 2021:

North Fork Clearwater River: From its mouth upstream to Dworshak Dam.

Closing Dates

The following area closes on October 14, 2021, or upon notice, whichever comes first.

Mainstem Clearwater River: From Memorial Bridge to Orofino Bridge.

All other areas open to fall Chinook Salmon fishing will close on October 31, 2021, or upon notice, whichever comes first.

Fishing Days

Fishing for fall Chinook Salmon is open 7 days per week.

Fishing Hours

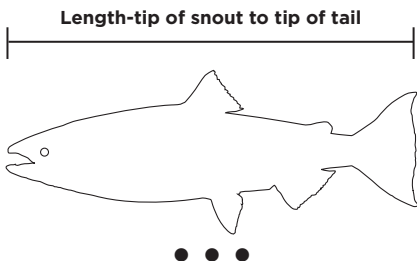
Fishing for fall Chinook Salmon is permitted 24 hours a day during the designated season and locations.

Daily, Possession, and Season Limits

NOTE: Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) may implement in-season changes to seasons or limits. For updated seasons and limits information consult a license vendor, an IDFG office, or the IDFG website: (<https://idfg.idaho.gov/fish/chinook/rules>)

Adult Chinook Salmon are 24 or more inches in length.

Jack Chinook Salmon are less than 24 inches in length.



Daily Bag Limit: Three (3) adult fall Chinook Salmon (adipose-clipped or unclipped), no limit on jack fall Chinook Salmon.

Possession Limit: Nine (9) adult fall Chinook Salmon, no limit on jack fall Chinook Salmon.

Season Limit : Season Limit: There is no limit on the number of adult fall Chinook Salmon that can be harvested during the fall Chinook Salmon season.

Jack Salmon: Anglers can retain any jack fall Chinook Salmon (adipose-clipped or unclipped) if they have a valid salmon permit. There are no daily bag, possession, or season limits for jack fall Chinook Salmon. Anglers are not required to record jack fall Chinook Salmon on their salmon permit.

“Possession limit” shall apply to salmon while in the field or being transported to the final place of consumption or storage.

Anglers must cease fishing for all Chinook Salmon (including jacks) once they have retained their daily or possession limit of adult Chinook Salmon.

Releasing Fish

Any salmon that is landed but not reduced to possession must be released. Anglers should strive to minimize handling and stress on each fish caught and released.

Methods of Take



Barbless Hook

Up to 3 points
on one shank.



Single-Pointed Hook

One point on one shank

Barbless hook

- A** It is unlawful to use any hook larger than 5/8 inch measured from the point of the hook to the shank.
- B** Only barbless hooks may be used when fishing for salmon. Bending the barb(s) down to the shank of a single, double, or treble hook will meet this requirement.

Harvest Rules



- A** Adult and jack Chinook Salmon may be kept if the adipose fin has been clipped as evidenced by a healed scar.



- B** Adult and jack Chinook Salmon with an unclipped adipose fin may be kept.

- C** No person shall have in the field or in transit an adult anadromous salmon that has been processed by removing the head and tail unless the following conditions are met:
 1. the fish has been recorded on the taker's salmon permit;
 2. the fish is processed and packaged with the skin naturally attached to the flesh including a portion with a healed, clipped, adipose fin scar or the adipose fin; and
 3. it must be packaged in a manner that the number of fish harvested can be readily determined. No person shall process salmon until they are ashore and done fishing for the day. No person shall transport processed salmon via boat. Jack salmon may not be processed while in the field or in transit. Any processed salmon count towards an angler's possession limit while in the field or in transit.
- D** All salmon that are hooked, landed and reduced to possession must be killed immediately after landing and shall be counted in the limits of the person hooking the fish.

Permit Validation

When an adult Chinook Salmon has been hooked, landed and reduced to possession, the angler hooking the fish must immediately:

- A** Cut out and completely remove one numbered notch from the permit; and
- B** Look up the location code number from the list below and write it in the space provided; and
- C** Enter in the space provided, the month and day fish was harvested.

Note:

- When a salmon is released unharmed, as in catch-and-release fishing, the angler is not required to make an entry on the permit.
- Anglers may retain jack Chinook Salmon and they are not required to record them on their permit.

For example, an adult fall Chinook Salmon kept from the Clearwater River below Orofino Bridge on September 6 would be entered as:

FISH BIRD	MONTH DAY	LOCATION CODE	MONTH DAY	LOCATION CODE	FISH BIRD
1			9/6	03	21
2					22
3					23
4					24
5					25

REMOVE NOTCH COMPLETELY!

RIVER LOCATION CODES

See Seasons section for full description of fishing boundaries. All of a river section may not be open for salmon fishing.

Snake River

WA/ID border upstream to Salmon River 01
 Salmon River upstream to Hells Canyon Dam02

Clearwater River Drainage

Clearwater River, below the Orofino Bridge03
 Clearwater River, above the Orofino Bridge04
 North Fork Clearwater River.....05
 Middle Fork Clearwater River06
 South Fork Clearwater River07

Little Salmon River

From its mouth upstream to Whitebird Creek.....10
 Whitebird Creek to Little Salmon River11

Other Relevant Statutes & Rules

The following acts are unlawful by statute or commission rule. Consult Title 36, Idaho Code, or the 2019-2021 Idaho Fishing Seasons and Rules for exact wording and complete listing.

It Is Unlawful:

- To fish within the posted upstream or downstream boundary of any fish weir or trap.
- To refuse to produce license or fish for inspection upon request by a conservation officer.
- To fail to stop and report at check stations established to inspect licenses and/or fish and game.
- To possess, transport or use as bait any live fish, leeches, frogs, salamanders, waterdogs, or shrimp, except that live crayfish may be used if caught on the body of water being fished.
- To catch any part of another person's bag limit, EXCEPT in the case of license-exempt persons under age 14 fishing for salmon.
- To transport for another or accept as a gift any game fish, unless a statement signed by the taker accompanies the fish, showing the number and kinds, the date taken, the taker's name, address and fishing license number.
- To claim ownership to more wild game or fish taken within the state of Idaho than allowed by established possession limits.
- To ship any fish by commercial carrier unless the outside of the package is marked as to the number and kinds of fish and the package contains a written statement showing the taker's name, address and fishing license number.
- To use seines, dip nets, spears, snag hooks, or any other contrivances in taking any fish from the waters of the state EXCEPT as allowed by Commission regulation (Note: Tribal fisheries may use gear types other than those allowed in sport fisheries).
- To waste game fish.
- To sell fish without a permit.

Snagging

It is unlawful to take or attempt to take salmon by snagging. Snagging shall mean the taking or attempting to take a fish by use of a hook or lure in any manner or method other than enticing or attracting a fish to strike with, and become hooked in its mouth. A salmon that has been hooked anywhere other than its mouth or jaw must be released.

Licenses, Permits and Requirements

Resident Salmon Permit	\$15.25
Resident Price Locked Salmon.....	\$12.75
Nonresident Salmon Permit (License required).....	\$25.75

License Required for Salmon Permit

To purchase a salmon permit, residents and nonresidents must also buy a fishing license which requires the Access/ Depredation fee. To check prices for the appropriate licenses and fees, contact a license vendor or visit **idfg.idaho.gov/buy**

- Any person age 14 and older who does not qualify as a resident must purchase a Nonresident Season Fishing License and Salmon Permit, a Nonresident Junior Fishing License and Salmon Permit, or a 3-Day Salmon\Steelhead License to fish for salmon.
- To qualify for resident status, a person must be domiciled in the state for at least six months.
- Children (including nonresidents) under the age of 14 may fish without a license and salmon permit provided they are accompanied by the holder of a valid permit and that any salmon 24 or more inches in length must be recorded on the permit holder's card and all salmon kept must be counted in the permit holder's legal bag, possession, and season limit.
- Resident children under the age of 14 may purchase their own salmon permit so that they may catch their own limit of salmon.
- Nonresident children under the age of 14 may purchase a Nonresident Junior Fishing License and a salmon permit so that they may catch their own limit of salmon.
- Children (including nonresidents) under the age of 14 may purchase a two pole permit.
- Consult the 2019-2021 Fishing Seasons and Rules for other regulations relating to fishing, license costs and other Department information.

Special Restrictions

Clearwater River: Fishing from the shoreline or wading along the perimeter of Dworshak National Fish Hatchery is prohibited. Fishing is also prohibited in the area of the ladder to the Nez Perce Tribal Hatchery (approximately 1 mile upstream of the Cherry Lane Bridge) as delineated by posted boundaries approximately 100 yards upstream and downstream from the ladder, and extending into the river channel approximately 50 yards.

North Fork Clearwater River: The mouth of the North Fork Clearwater River is defined as a straight line between the posted signs located at the Clearwater Hatchery outlet culvert on the west side and at the tip of land below the Dworshak Hatchery on the east side. Fishing from the shoreline or wading along the perimeter of Dworshak National Fish Hatchery is prohibited. Fishing from any watercraft or wading is prohibited between the posted line approximately 150 yards upstream from the mouth of the North Fork Clearwater River to the Ahsahka Highway 7 Bridge. When fishing from the Ahsahka Highway 7 Bridge, it is unlawful to take or attempt to take any fish downstream of the railroad bridge. Fishing from the railroad bridge is prohibited.



Tribal fisheries also occur in Idaho. They are governed by Tribes and have different rules than Idaho sport fisheries. Please be respectful of these different fishing traditions.

IDFG adheres to all applicable state and federal laws and regulations related to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, gender, or handicap. If you feel you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility of IDFG, or if you desire further information, please write to: Idaho Department of Fish and Game, P.O. Box 25, Boise, ID 83707; or The Office of Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, DC 20240.

Costs associated with this publication were provided from IDFG in accordance with section 60-202, Idaho Code.

8-21/pca 36926/38888/GG